training programme at Hyderabad. An expenditure of Rs. 7217/- was incurred by the bank for the journey undertaken by the AGM. The said air journey was undertaken by the AGM as per his entitlement, by the available air route. While there appear to be no specific instructions, on the subject, issued by the RBI, the official complied with the guidelines/instructions issued by the bank from time to time under Regulation 41 of the State Bank of Indore (Officers.) Service Regulations, 1979.

**Pension scheme for the employees of LIC and GIC**

7735. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance employees and officers have been agitating for implementation of agreed conclusions in respect of the introduction of Pension Scheme for the employees and officers of LIC and GIC;

(b) whether Government have cleared the said agreement;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Pension Scheme on similar lines has already been cleared in the banking sector and has been notified by the banks;

(e) if so, the reasons for which no such steps have been taken for the Insurance Industry; and

(f) the reasons for which no steps are being taken for Insurance Sector in the matter of wage revision when wage negotiations are in progress in the public undertaings and wage revision has been settled in the Banking Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Pension Scheme for the insurance employees has been cleared by the Government and the Pension Rules are being framed.

(d) and (e) A Scheme for providing pension to bank employees in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund has been formulated; however, the scheme is not yet operational.

(f) The Indian Banks Association (IBA) and representatives of Workmen's union in banks have signed an agreement on 14 2.95 for wage revision. However, negotiations for wage revision for Officers are still in progress.

Wage negotiations for employees of insurance industry can start only after the financial impact of Pension Scheme and one additional increment, sanctioned to insurance employees for cooperating in computerisation, is known.

**Minimum Balance Limit in Saving Bank and Current Account**

7736. SHRI K R. MALKANI:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks have decided to require savings bank and current account holders to retain a minimum of Rs. 1000 (against Rs. 250/- presently) in their bank account if they operate through cheques;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether this would seriously inconvenience millions of indigent account holders; and

(d) whether Government would consider advising these banks to maintain status quo in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) have reported that there is no uniformity amongst banks about the

minimum balance requirement in operative accounts. Some banks have recently revised the minimum balance to be maintained in such accounts. Higher minimum balance has been stipulated by banks in the case of cheque operative saving accounts. Those who cannot afford maintaining the minimum balance at such higher level can opt to have the account without cheque facility where modest minimum balance is required to be maintained. The minimum balance in savings bank account is prescribed by individual banks after taking into account cost of servicing such accounts, etc.

**Evasion of Excise Duty by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited**

7737. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case was registered against M/S Maruti Udyog Limited for Central excise duty evasion amounting to crores of rupees by the Directorate-General of Anti-Evasion during the year 1993;

(b) whether a huge contingent of officers were drawn from Delhi Central Excise Collectorate, who visited the premises for a number of days for verification of documents;

(c) whether attendance was maintained daily by these officers;

(d) whether during the sanction of rewards, more names of officers not associated remotely in the case were also recorded; and

(e) if so, what action is being initiated against the officers so rewarded and against the sanctioning authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In 1993, an investigation was undertaken into the alleged evasion of central excise duty by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited, for which some officers from Delhi Central Excise Collectorate were also included in the team which visited the Company's premises. A record of officers attending to this work has been kept.

(d) As per the Reward Rules, only those officers were considered for reward who palyed an active role either in the investigations in the premises of M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited or in regard to follow up action, including subsequent scrutiny and analysis of documents etc.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

**Recruitment in Oriental Bank of Commerce**

7738. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent recruitment in Group D posts in Oriental Bank of Commerce in its Zonal Office, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, OBC candidates who have produced valid certificates duly countersigned by the concerned District Magistrate/Duputy Commissioner at the time of interviews, have been ignored and other candidates who have produced invalid certificates of OBC have been included in the zone of consideration;

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative, the names of those candidates who have produced valid certificates duly counter-signed by the concerned District Authorities at the time of interviews and whose names have been included in the zone of consideration; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Oriental Bank of Commerce has reported that the Employment Exchange had sponsored to that Bank amongst others, a panel of 11 Other Backward Classes (OBCs) names for recruitment to the post of peon in its subordinate cader. All such candidates were called for interview. The bank has further re-